

REMARKS

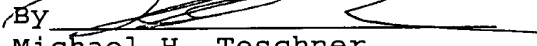
Applicants believe that the above amendments place the rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal and reduces the number of issues on appeal. Claims 4 and 21 are cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1 and 14 have been amended and provide no new issues, no new matter and no new search will be required. The amendment to claims 1 and 14 deletes a portion of the last amendment that places those claims in better form for consideration on appeal. The last amendment was filed on August 5, 2002. Prior to that amendment the examiner had issued an official action on April 4, 2002 containing the identical rejection as the most recent office action. Therefore, applicants believe that no new matter has been added, no new issues have been presented and no new search will be needed to be conducted. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments be entered.

If, however, for any reason the examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that she telephone applicants' attorney at 908-654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which she might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: October 21 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By   
Michael H. Teschner  
Registration No.: 32,862  
LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG,  
KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK, LLP  
600 South Avenue West  
Westfield, New Jersey 07090  
(908) 654-5000  
Attorney for Applicants